

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated April 9, 2007, the Examiner rejects pending claims 1 through 17 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In support of the rejection, the Examiner points to claim 1 as not providing a practical application because it does not produce a useful, tangible and concrete result, and therefore does not fall within a statutory category of invention.

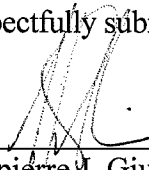
Claims 1 through 17 are currently pending in the present application, with claims 1 being an independent claim. By way of the present amendment, Applicants hereby amend independent claim 1. This amendment is believed to be supported by the specification as originally filed and does not introduce any new matter. Accordingly, entry is respectfully requested regarding the same. Because claims 2 through 17 depend from, and therefore include all of the elements of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as they might be applied to the claims as pending following entry of this Amendment and allow the claims. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Dated: May 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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